

LGA MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT - RECOMMENDATION OF WORKING GROUP

Council - 20 July 2021

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by:

- Standards Committee - 12 April 2021
- Governance Committee - 22 June 2021

Key Decision: No

This reports support the Key Aim of: The effective management of Council resources

Contact Officer: Martin Goodman, ext. 7242

Recommendation to Standards Committee: That

- a) it be recommended to Council that the existing Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct be endorsed and retained, subject to any comments from the Governance Committee
- b) this report be referred to Governance Committee for comment

Recommendation to Governance Committee: That

- a) no comment be made on the recommendation of the Standards Committee to Council that the existing Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct be endorsed and retained

Recommendation to Council: That

- a) the Council notes the work of the LGA on a Model Code of Conduct
- b) the Council resolves that the existing Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct be endorsed and retained

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Standards Committee considered the sixteenth Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer on 2 February 2021.
- 2 As part of that report, the Monitoring Officer informed the Committee of the LGA Model Code of Conduct.

3 This was considered at a joint working group of the Standards and Governance Committees, which took place on 16 February 2021. The Members in attendance were Cllrs Ball (Chairman), Eyre, Fothergill, Osborne-Jackson, Pender and Raikes. Cllr Nelson sent her apologies.

4 The Working Group unanimously agreed as follows:

We do not feel that the LGA proposals add material advantages to the Code of Conduct and therefore we resolve to remain with the existing Sevenoaks District Council Code.

5 In view of this Working Group decision, the recommendations set out in this report are put before Members for resolution.

Key Implications

Financial Implications

None.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The Code of Conduct must comply with the provisions set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011. Both the Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct and the LGA Model Code of Conduct are fully compliant.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

Members have been clear that they prefer the Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct to the LGA Model Code of Conduct. The comments of the Working Group are reflected in this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - LGA Model Code of Conduct

Appendix B - Sevenoaks District Council Members' Code of Conduct

Background Papers

None.

Martin Goodman
Monitoring Officer